

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: US - ITALIAN ENERGY WORKING GROUP (EWG) -
REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON ELECTRICITY RATES

REF: ROME'S A-486; ROME 11916; ROME 9705

1. DEPARTMENT HAS CONTACTED FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION AND
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS
(NARUC) TO DISCUSS ITALIAN INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING
CONTACT WITH US EXPERTS IN FIELD OF ELECTRICAL UTILITY
RATE STRUCTURES. NARUC HAS SUGGESTED TO US A NUMBER
OF ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE, AS WELL
AS INDEPENDENT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONS AND KNOWLEDGEABLE
INDIVIDUALS IN THE FIELD OF UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES.
SEVERAL EXAMPLES ARE EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE (INDUSTRY
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ASSOCIATION), ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, FEDERAL

ENERGY ADMINISTRATION, ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND, THE STATE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONS OF CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK, WISCONSIN AND MISSOURI, AS WELL AS ELECTRIC UTILITIES THEMSELVES.

2. BEFORE PROCEEDING TO CONTACT ALL OF THE ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS, WE THINK IT ADVISABLE FOR EMBASSY TO DISCUSS WITH ENEL IN A PRELIMINARY WAY THE NUMBER AS WELL AS FUNCTIONAL

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICIALS IN GROUP IT WOULD PLAN TO SEND TO U.S. AS WELL AS SUGGESTED TIME FRAME FOR A VISIT. ALSO, MAY WE ASSUME THAT MEETINGS COULD BE CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH? WE WOULD NOTE THAT THE U.S. ORGANIZATIONS CITED ABOVE ARE WIDELY SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY (E.G., NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, D.C., WISCONSIN, MISSOURI, CALIFORNIA), THUS NECESSITATING EXTENSIVE TRAVEL.

3. COMMENT: OUR PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH NARUC SUGGESTS THAT A WELL ORGANIZED VISIT COULD PROVE USEFUL IN EXPOSING ENEL TO SOME OF THE LATEST THINKING IN THE U.S. ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES RELATED TO ELECTRIC UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES. KISSINGER

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